

Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

OC-05 CCO-00 SCCT-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAB-01 ACDA-07

/104 W

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O R 101000Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9505

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3174

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION 10 APRIL 1976: ALL SYSTEMS "GO"
FOR PARLIAMENT SESSION

REF: BEIRUT 3132 (DTG 091200Z APR 76)

1. PARLIAMENT CONVENED AT APPROXIMATELY 1030 HOURS LOCAL WITH 88 DEPUTIES, INCLUDING CHAMOUN, PRESENT AND QUICKLY ADOPTED AMENDMENT TO ART. 73 UNANIMOUSLY. SPEAKER ASSAD HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD US HE HOPED SESSION COULD BE CONCLUDED WITHOUT DEBATE IN HALF HOUR. JUMBLATT, EDDE AND TONY FRANGIE WERE NOT RPT NOT PRESENT BUT MEMBERS OF THEIR BLOCS WERE THERE.

2. BEIRUT AND REMAINDER OF COUNTRY IS RELATIVELY QUIET THIS MORNING AS WAS THE CASE OVERNIGHT. INCIDENTS OF MINOR NATURE WERE REPORTED IN SOME SUBURBS OF CAPITAL AND NORMAL INCIDENCE OF SNIPING AND INTER-MITTENT ROCKET FIRE OCCURRED ALONG LENGTH OF CONFRONTATION LINE. INHABITANTS OF ARE AROUND CHANCERY APPEAR RELAXED THIS MORNING AND SOURCES WHO HAVE TOURED OTHER PARTS OF TOWN, INCLUDING VICINITY OF AIRPORT, ALSO REPORT RELATIVE TRANQUILITY.

3. SOURCE OF GREAT DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE FACTOR DIMINISHING EFFERVESCENCE OF LOCAL SCENE HAS BEEN RUMORS OF SYRIAN MILITARY MOVES ON EASTERN BORDER SINCE 9 APRIL. LITTLE HARD INFORMATION LACES THISSPECULATION, HOWEVER. LEBANESE G-2 SOURCE TOLD DATT THIS MORNING THAT SMALL FORCE, IDENTIFYING ITSELF AS SA'IQA, ENTERED LEBANON FROM SYRIA ALONG MAIN DAMASCUS ROAD AT ABOUT 1200 HOURS LOCAL 9 APRIL WITH APPARENT MISSION OF RELIEVING CHRISTIAN-HELD TOW OF ZAHLE. INCOMING UNIS ENGAGED ELEMENTS OF "LEBANESE ARAB ARMY" IN LIMITED CLASHES AT MAJDAL ANJAR AND SAADNAYEL AND THEN WITHDREW SOUTHWARD DOWN BEKAA VALLEY WITHOUT BREAKING INTO ZAHLE.

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4. FRENCH ENVOY GORSE CONTINUED HIS ROUNDS. MUKYLES TANNOUS, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO PRES. FRANGIE, TOLD EMBASSY FSL LATE APRIL 9 THAT CHRISTIANS "NOT RPT NOT TAKING GORSE SERIOUSLY" IN VIEW OF SYRIAN AND AMERICAN IRONS ALREADY IN FIRE. TANNOUS ALSO SAID CHRISTIANS INTEND CONVENE SUMMIT TO AGREE ON SINGLE CANDIDATE FOR SUCCESSION TO PRESIDENCY.

THEY WILL INSIST THAT, SINCE MUSLIMS NAMED PRIMIN
KARAME TO PREMIERSHIP LAST JULY, CHRISTIANS SHOULD
HAVE RIGHT TO SELECT PRESIDENT.
BROWN

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